

September 16, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-16 and 58-62 stand pending in the instant application.
Claims 8-16, 59, 61 and 62 are allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 58 and 60 stand rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being obvious over Siminski, U.S. Patent no. 5981086, of record, in view of Reiter et al., U.S. 6254751 B1, of record. The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Siminski is unavailable as prior art under 35 USC 103(a) and cannot be combined with Reiter et al. Siminski would only be available as art under 35 USC 102 (e), (f) and (g) because it was published on November 9, 1999, whereas the present application is a Continuation of U.S. application serial no. 09/703,408, now U.S. Patent no. 6,677,032, which is a Division of U.S. serial no. 09/173,146, filed on October 15, 1998. Siminski and the present application are each subject to an assignment to the same party, Morton International, Inc., as of October 15, 1998. Accordingly, because the present file wrapper was filed on November 21, 2003, well after November 29, 1999, Siminski cannot be used as prior art against the instant claims. 35 USC 103(c).

Reiter et al. discloses no epoxy crosslinker in a coating on a substrate, as is instantly recited. Compare Reiter et al. at Abstract, lines 5-7, and col. 3, lines 40-56.

The rejections are improper. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections over Siminski and Reiter.

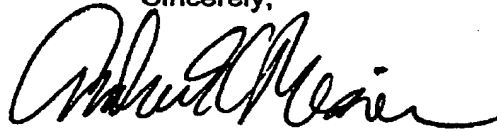
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CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the instant claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, he or she is urged to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Concurrently herewith, Applicants have filed a letter to the Office of Initial Patent Examination regard a Filing Receipt correction. Please charge any additional fees to deposit account no. 18-1850.

Sincerely,



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